encounter took place with the police party. Unable to withstand the police firing, Veerappan and his gang escaped in the forests leaving their personal belongings. Maran, who is the Chief of TNLA and a prominent member of Veerappan's gang was arrested by the STF on 15.2.2001 from a place called Seethaivanam in the Boluvampatti reserve forests of Coimbatore district. A massive man-hunt is on by the STF to nab the remaining fugitives.

Refugees in Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka

2774. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total arrival of refugees in Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka since the escalation of war in Sri Lanka;

(b) what is the total expenditure involved in rehabilitating the refugees;

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent the influx of refugees pouring into our country; and

(d) whether Government of India is taking up this matter with the Sri Lankan Government for sorting out this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) In the wake of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, about 2,78,000 Sri Lankan refugees arrived in India since 1983 up to February, 2001;

(b) An amount of Rs. 229.36 crore (approximately) has been reimbursed to the State Governments for providing relief to these refugees during the period July 1983 to March 2000. However these refugees are not to be rehabilitated permanently in India and only relief is to be provided on humanitarian grounds pending their repatriation on restoration of normalcy in Sri Lanka;

(c) The Central Government and the State Government of Tamil Nadu have undertaken several measures which include

intensifying the coastal patrolling, strengthening of naval detachments in Tamil Nadu, collection and collation of advance intelligence and follow up action thereon; and

(d) Yes, Sir.

Present scale of arms and ammunition of Delhi Police

2775. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only twenty-five per cent of Delhi Police is armed and the present scale of arms and ammunition of Delhi Police was fixed by Government was back in 1953;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bureau of Police Development and Research have recommended that 60 per cent of the Police Force should be armed; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per instructions issued by the Government in 1953, amongst other arms, rifles were provided to Delhi Police personnel at the scale of one-third of the total strength of Constables & Head Constables at Police Stations and 100 per cent of strength of Constables & Head Constables at Delhi Armed Police Battalions. In additions, one revolver / pistol was provided to the officers of and above the rank of ASI. The Government further supplemented the armoury in the year 1974 by providing sophisticated weapons at the scale of twenty-five per cent of the total strength of Delhi Police.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) have recommended arms at the scale of 60 per cent of strength of Police Stations; 100 per cent of strength of Armed Police Battalions, Commando Groups and Special Task Force etc; 25 per cent of lower subordinate strength and 100 per cent of officers of the rank of ASI and above in the Traffic Unit; and 25 per cent of the srength of Crime Branch and Special Branch etc.